

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 (all of the claims in the case) and add new claims as follows:

8. (New) A mixture for use in tanning leather, said mixture comprising:

(I) a phosphorus-containing compound selected from the group consisting of

tris(hydroxymethyl)phosphine (THP);

tetrakis(hydroxymethyl)phosphonium salts (THP⁺salts);

condensates of THP with organic nitrogen compounds (THP condensates); and

compounds of the formula $RP(CH_2OH)_3$, wherein R is an organic group which does not react chemically with collagen in said leather (THP analogues); and

(II) at least one water-soluble moderator selected from the group consisting of

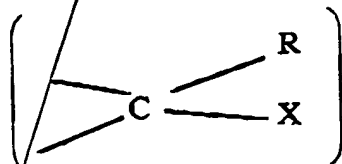
(A) metaphosphate salts and

(B) aliphatic polyhydroxy or polypyrrolidone compounds

having at least three adjacent, geminal or

vicinal

groups,



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl and wherein X is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl and pyrrolidone.

9. (New) The mixture of claim 8, wherein said phosphorous containing compound consists essentially of a condensate of from 2 to 6 moles THP with 1 mole urea.

10. (New) The mixture of claim 8, wherein said at least one water-soluble moderator is selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, glycerol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, mannitol, mono and di- saccharide sugars, dialdehyde starch, alginates, polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

11. (New) A method of tanning leather which comprises contacting the collagen in said leather with a tannage comprising the mixture of claim 8.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising tanning said leather with a syntan and/or a mineral tannage and wherein said mixture is contacted with the collagen in said leather prior to, simultaneously with, or after tanning of said leather with the syntan and/or mineral tannage.

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said leather is fat liquored subsequent to said tanning.

14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said leather is shaved and/or split subsequent to said tanning.

209020-ET408660